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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

REPORT OF

THE BUREAU FOR THE BLIND

For the Fiscal Year

July 1, 1945 to June 30, 1946

To the

STATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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Room 503
40 Fountain Street
Providence

Mr. Edward P. Reidy, Director
Rhode Island State Department of Social Welfare

Dear Mr. Reidy:

I beg to submit herewith the annual report of the Bureau for the Blind for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and forty-six.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Leonore Y. Gay
Administrator
Bureau for the Blind

R.I. State Dept. of Soc. Welfare, 1945/46 annual rpt.

State of Rhode Island

Department of Social Welfare

Edward P. Reidy, Director

Bureau for the Blind

Staff as of 6-30-46

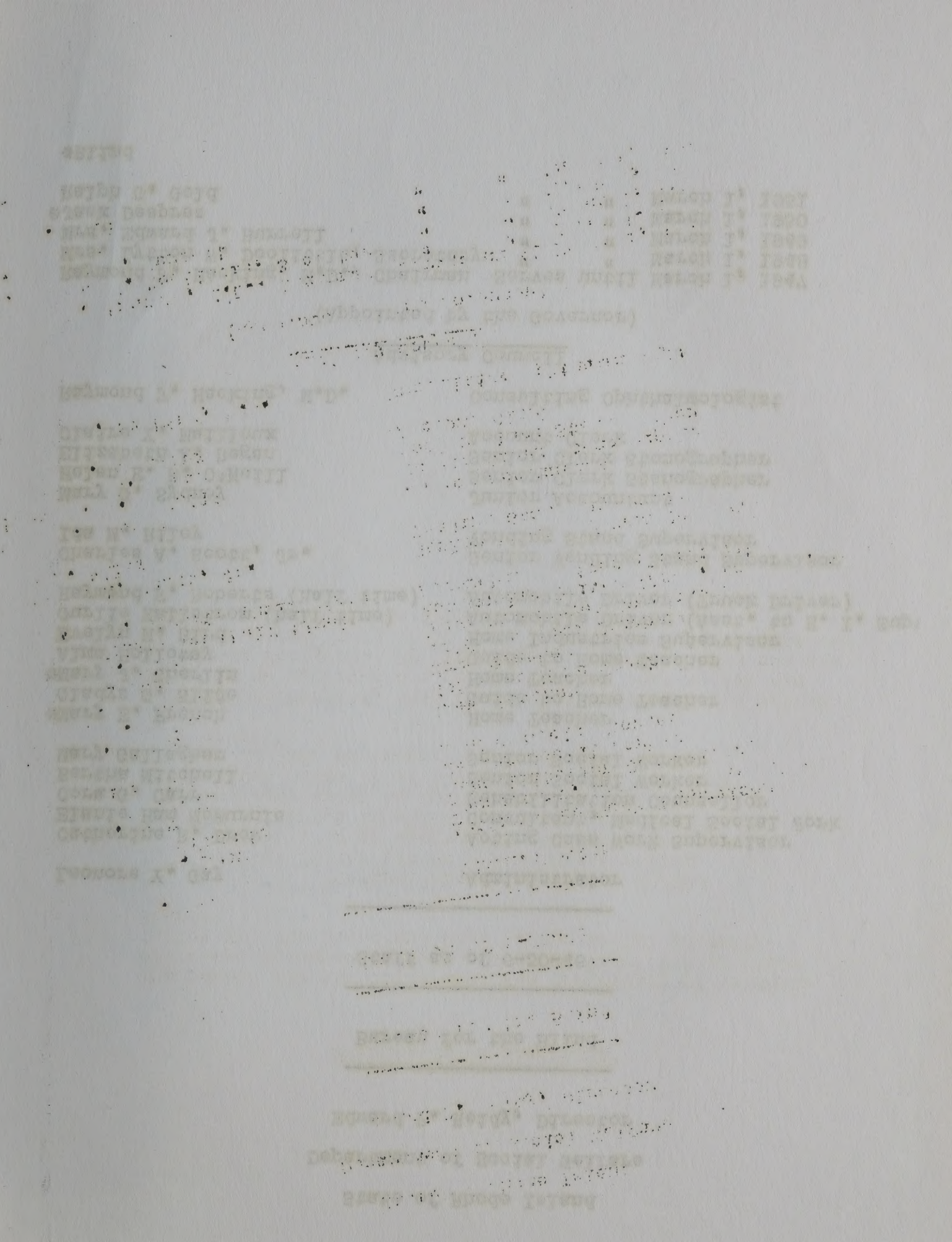
Leonore Y. Gay	Administrator
Catherine R. Drew	Acting Case Work Supervisor
Elanie Ham McBurnie	Consultant, Medical Social Work
Cora G. Carr	Rehabilitation Counsellor
Bertha Mitchell	Senior Social Worker
Mary Gallagher	Senior Social Worker
*Mary E. French	Home Teacher
Gladys G. Slide	Guide to Home Teacher
*Mary J. Cherlin	Home Teacher
Alma Holloway	Guide to Home Teacher
Evelyn M. Bird	Home Industries Supervisor
Gurlie Kallstrom (half time)	Automobile Driver (Asst. to H. I. Supv
Raymond F. Roberts (half time)	Automobile Driver (Truck Driver)
Charles A. Scott, Jr.	Senior Vending Stand Supervisor
Ida M. Riley	Vending Stand Supervisor
Mary G. Sydney	Junior Accountant
Helen E. R. O'Neill	Senior Clerk Stenographer
Elizabeth A. Regan	Senior Clerk Stenographer
Claire Y. Mailloux	Account Clerk
Raymond F. Hacking, M.D.	Consulting Ophthalmologist

Advisory Council

(Appointed by the Governor)

Raymond F. Hacking, M.D., Chairman	Serves until	March 1, 1947
Mrs. Lytton W. Doolittle, Secretary	" "	March 1, 1948
Mrs. Edward J. Burrell	" "	March 1, 1949
*Jack Despres	" "	March 1, 1950
Ralph G. Gold	" "	March 1, 1951

*Blind



Definition of Blindnesss

The Bureau for the Blind uses the definition of economic blindness recommended by the Central Committee on Statistics for the Blind and used by the Social Security Board:

> "Central Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses"; or an equivalent handicap, "a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees."

Broadly interpreted, this means that we consider a person blind if an approved eye doctor reports that he can see at twenty feet, what the person with normal vision can see at two hundred feet; or if his "side vision" is so impaired that he is equally handicapped in travelling.

BUREAU FOR THE BLIND

FUNCTIONS

The Bureau is a service agency. It maintains a register of all blind and near-blind persons in the State; it obtains medical statistics on causes of blindness; it provides for treatment to conserve or restore vision, and stresses the importance of prevention of blindness. In partnership with the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Program it provides vocational counseling, training and placement in suitable employment for the potentially employable blind; it furnishes home instruction in Braille and handwork, conducts sales of products made by blind persons, and supervises employment on vending stands. No direct financial relief is provided, but the Administrator serves as consultant to the Division of Public Assistance on matters concerning the Federally sponsored Aid to the Blind relief program. Though education of blind children is the responsibility of the State Department of Education, the Bureau studies each child and recommends to the Director of Education a plan best suited for the individual educational development of each. While serving cases individually and in our public relations programs a great deal of interpretation is made to sighted persons concerning the abilities and special needs and problems of the blind.

STAFF

At the end of the year the personnel consisted of the Administrator, acting casework supervisor, medical social consultant, rehabilitation counsellor, two senior social workers, two blind home teachers and their guides, a home industries supervisor, a senior vending stand supervisor, a vending stand supervisor (on leave of absence from her regular position as principal clerk), a junior accountant, an account clerk, two senior clerk stenographers, and two part time automobile drivers, (a man and a woman) who assist with the home industries program. An ophthalmologist and a doctor of medicine give consultation service, and an advisory council of five appointed by the Governor met on November 28, 1945 and on June 5, 194(besides giving service individually.

The Federal Office of Vocational Rehabilitation pays the entire salaries of the rehabilitation counsellor and a senior clerk stenographer; 90 per cent of the salary of the senior vending stand supervisor; 50 per cent of the salary of the medical social consultant, who is also available for services to the Division of Rehabilitation in the Department of Education; and 25 per cent of the salarie:

STAFF (continued)

of the Administrator, the acting case work supervisor who is also chief of vocational rehabilitation, and the two senior social workers. The above personnel constitute the vocational rehabilitation unit within the Bureau for the Blind. The Federal Government also pays about a third of the Bureau's operating costs, since about a third of its work is devoted to Vocational Rehabilitation. The Federal Government likewise pays 50 per cent of case service costs (vocational training, readers fees, etc.) to make blind civilians more advantageously employable.

Early in the year the Department of Civil Service approved the two new classifications of senior vending stand supervisor and vending stand supervisor, making it possible for us to hire an experienced business man on September 17, 1945 to refine, promote and expand the program. Our principal clerk was granted leave of absence without pay to become his assistant on the same date. In September we obtained permission to add a stores clerk to help with the seasonal Christmas card rush for four months, when blind salesmen sell thousands of boxes to their customers, buying them at cost from the Bureau. This clerk was promoted to automobile driver part time in January 1946 and continues to assist the Home Industries Supervisor. One senior clerk stenographer's position was reclassified to that of a junior accountant, and later the same young woman qualified for appointment to the higher classification. At our urgent request the Civil Service Pay Plan was amended upward for the three classifications of Home Teacher of the Blind, Guide to Home Teacher of the Blind and Rehabilitation Counsellor. The increases granted were inadequate for postwar salaries, we felt, and other salaries which badly needed adjustment were not increased. In June, 1945 we had lost a home industries supervisor who had been with us for three years, and found it impossible to recruit a trained and experienced person for the low salary listed by Civil Service. Finally in December we promoted her former part-time assistant who had been covering the position meanwhile. A guide who had served our senior home teacher for thirteen years was on leave of absence without pay from December to June. When she submitted her resignation, the substitute guide succeeded her. When the guide for the junior home teacher submitted her resignation on June 30, 1946 we were completely baffled, for all we could offer a new guide was the magnificent sum of $960 a year. We ended the year with two vacancies as the principal clerk was still working as vending stand supervisor.

YEAR'S WORK

The Blind Register

The social service staff continued to comb the Register for any whose vision might be improved through treatment and for potentially employable blind people who might benefit under the Vocational Rehabilitation program. New cases were evaluated with these objectives in mind, and many individual case plans were initiated. Leadership, salesmanship and recruiting technique are often necessary to reinforce a blind person's courage or to give practical direction to his steps towards greater independence and self support. The social workers and home teachers have also concentrated their attention on service to preschool children and children not in school although of school age, trying to devise individual plans for their educational and emotional development. Consultation service provided throughout the year by the Child Guidance Clinic was very helpful to this phase of our work.

Blind register as of 6-30-45		932
Cases Added During Year		77
Gross Register		1,009
Cases Closed During Year		57
Reasons for closure		
Died	28	
Moved out of State	6	
Not blind according to definition and not in need of service	14	
Sight restored and no longer in need of service	3	
Closed for lack of evidence	6	
Blind register as of 6-30-46		952

The Register shows that 35 of the 39 cities and towns have blind residents, the exceptions being Charlestown, Hopkinton, Narragansett and West Greenwich.

YEAR'S WORK, The Blind Register (continued)

Age groupings for Register as of 6-30-46

birth	thru	5	years	12	
6	"	10	"	23	
11	"	20	"	65	
21	"	30	"	104	
31	"	40	"	89	
41	"	50	"	91	
51	"	60	"	124	
61	"	70	"	146	
71	"	80	"	152	
81	"	90	"	81	
91	"	100	"	24	
101	"	110	"	2	
Unknown				39	952

Of the total Register, 24 are receiving education in residential schools for the blind (23 at Perkins Institution) on Department of Education scholarships, and 125 are in other schools, hospitals and institutions; 113 were receiving Aid to the Blind in June 1946 through the Division of Public Assistance, the average grant for the month being $35.25. Three hundred and forty-one individuals were served through social service during the year, and 148 through the home teachers; the unduplicated total is 406 of whom 74 were new cases and 332 old. These were distributed throughout the State with the exception of the towns of Charlestown, Hopkinton, Little Compton, Middletown, Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Smithfield and West Greenwich. Of the 77 cases added, 26 were referred from personal sources, 37 from public and private social and health agencies, 5 from educational sources, 6 from private physicians, 2 from service clubs and one from the United States Employment Service.

Medical Social Program

During the year Sight was restored to seven blind persons ranging in age from 25 to 70, through treatment and operation. Three of these cases received medical treatment as part of vocational rehabilitation plans to make them "more advantageously employable." In addition to the seven, three others received treatment which improved

YEAR'S WORK, Medical Social Program (continued)

their vision, but vision remained within the range covered by the definition of industrial blindness. Two of the three were vocational rehabilitation cases. The Medical Social Consultant advised the social workers in planning for and carrying out these treatments.

One important activity of the year was the preparation of the Physical Restoration Amendment to the Vocational Rehabilitation Plan, in the work of which the Consultant played a major part. In April 1946, the Consultant was invited to attend the regular Monday morning conferences of the staff of the Division of Rehabilitation, State Department of Education, and continued to do so until they were temporarily discontinued for the summer.

The Medical Social Consultant held 451 individual consultations with members of the Bureau's staff, members of the Public Assistance, Division of Rehabilitation, and the staffs of other agencies. One hundred and thirty-three blind individuals were concerned in these consultations. She frequently obtained advice from the Medical Consultant and the Ophthalmologic Consultant. The Administrator and she attended the National Rehabilitation Association Conference in Chicago in May and the Consultant attended the Annual Meeting of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in New York City in December. She and other members of the staff have taken active parts in local and regional professional activities.

We received four supervisory visits from the staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation: the physician in charge of Physical Restoration, a member of the Administrative Standards Divis an auditor (all from Washington) and the regional representative for New England. The American Foundation for the Blind gave consultatio service on three different occasions in regard to preparation of the coming nation-wide Civil Service examination for Home Teacher of the Blind.

Home Teaching

The two home teachers gave 1314 individual lessons to blin pupils during the year, besides making 78 social and 191 miscellaneo visits to their homes. A blind adult who has recently lost his sigh is often inspired to new hope by the example of the teacher, who although blind herself is carrying on an active useful life and has learned to master many of the inconveniences of blindness. "Lessons'

YEAR'S WORK, Home Teaching (continued)

include many practical methods of carrying on former activities and may include instruction in reading raised print (Braille or Moon-type typing, pencil writing, and various types of handwork. During the past year the teachers have given some supplementary academic instruction to blind children homebound for reasons other than blindness, to whom licensed visiting teachers are not available. We have urged the State Department of Education to make provision for this gap in providing education to Rhode Island blind children. One World War II blind veteran received instruction in braille as part of a vocational rehabilitation plan in which the Veterans Administration and the Bureau cooperated. He preferred to come to our office for his weekly lessons so it was arranged that way.

Home Industries

When their blind pupils have learned to make saleable articles the home teachers encourage them to work regularly under the Home Industries Program. The Bureau supplies the material, the home teachers supervise the work as it is done in their homes, the blind person is paid the first of each monthsfor all work satisfactorily completed during the previous month, and the Bureau sells the goods to the public. This program operates as a Rotary Fund and at least $8,500 of the State's money is allocated for this purpose by the State Treasurer. The Rotary Fund ended the year with a surplus of $811.06, which reverted to the General Treasury.

We were having our annual sale in Newport when V-J Day was announced. Seven organized sales held in five cities and towns durin the year, plus office sales brought in gross sales of $6,870.56. In addition chair caning brought in $1,143.84, Christmas Cards and estimated $9,131, and raw materials were sold to blind workers to fil their own business orders. The total gross business was $17,476.61. One hundred and thirty-two individuals benefited to the amount of an estimated $9,922.32. Some work quite steadily, others have little time to spend on handwork, but to all it brings a sense of achievemen and the satisfaction of earning a few dollars.

On June 30, 1946, 106 Talking Book Machines were out on loa to 106 blind individuals. These machines owned by the United States Library of Congress are like phonographs which read books to blind people from records available without cost through the mails from the

YEAR'S WORK, Home Industries (continued)

regional library at Perkins. Many of these machines are now ten years old and in poor condition despite continual repairs. Blind readers are looking forward to their being replaced by new machines now that the war is over.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The program of Federal-State Vocational Rehabilitation under the Barden-LaFollette Act in operation since June, 1944 in the Bureau for the Rhode Island blind of employable age served eighty-seven blind persons, twenty-five of them new during the year.

The staff service in vocational rehabilitation of the blind includes the full time of one rehabilitation counselor, of one senior vending stand supervisor, since September 17, 1945, and of one senior clerk stenographer as well as 25 per cent of the time of the administrator, 25 per cent of the time of the case work supervisor as chief of rehabilitation, 50 per cent of the time of the medical social consultant who also acts as supervisor of physical restoration, 25 per cent of the time of each of two senior social workers.

The social worker's rehabilitation service totalled: 36 general medical examinations, 40 ophthalmological examinations, 1 for psychiatric diagnosis, 1 otological, 1 orthopedic, 1 occupational therapy treatment, 1 hearing and 7 eye treatments, 6 hospitalizations, 6 prostheses of hands, dentures and glasses. Pre-vocational home teaching service was provided 13, talking books as a training aid to 4, and psychometric examinations to 9 blind persons. The above service required 153 client interviews, 14 financial investigations, contact with 32 related agencies for 61 individuals.

The medical social consultant interprets the findings of all medical reports with advice from the medical and ophthalmological consultants when needed, and outlines limitations of activity as stated or implied in these reports, and assists in plans for physical restoration when it will bring about employability or more advantageous employability of the blind person.

The senior vending stand supervisor promotes the establishment of vending stands and small business enterprises to provide employment opportunities to blind men and women.

YEAR'S WORK, Vocational Rehabilitation (continued)

The chief of rehabilitation supervises the social case workers and coordinates the rehabilitation procedures.

The rehabilitation counselor is responsible for the vocational guidance and counseling of the blind of employable age and of their training and rehabilitation into employment.

The Rehabilitation Counselor had 295 vocational counseling interviews with clients in the office, in their homes, at the training facility, and at the place of employment. The counselor studies carefully the potential vocational abilities within the limitations of blindness by use of psychometric and other measurement, searches into the school achievement, the interests, personality and temperament as well as the experience of the rehabilitant. Work samples from industry are used during the interview for both study and train ing--study of the client's orientation in space, orderliness, abilit to follow instructions and his dexterity; training in examining material, eliminating lost motion and in time-saving methods. This first experience of the blind novice with a piece of industrial work adds to his confidence in embarking on his first job.

Vocational objectives range from industrial through vendin stand and other businesses, dictating machine operating and stenography, farming and the professions. The counselor confers with Perkins Institution regarding the abilities of blind Rhode Island students and courses leading to their vocational objectives which ar arrived at in counseling interviews with the blind students.

The blind person with timid or asocial attitude is encouraged through the counseling process to assume a point of view leading to employability.

For a vocational objective which requires training to prepare the blind person, the rehabilitation counselor inspects and selects with the client, the most suitable training facility. Durin the year three blind young men were in college training leading to law, music teaching and the insurance fields, one with double hand amputation was in trade training, one in post-graduate work at Perki Institution after graduating from sighted high school, to learn Brai typing and to improve in academic subjects preparatory to college, t in vending stand training and one in pre-industrial. Blind persons

YEAR'S WORK, Vocational Rehabilitation (continued)

placed in industrial work usually receive on-the-job training at the time of induction. The rehabilitation counselor had ninety-four contacts with fourteen training facilities including thirty regarding the progress of blind trainees.

During the year 38 blind persons of the 87 active rehabilitation cases were gainfully employed: 22 in industrial, 3 in office work, one in industrial engineering, 3 in vending stands, 2 in poultry farming, 3 in sheltered shop, one in camp in kitchen work, 2 in sales and one in his own wholesale business. Fifteen were direct placements made during the year. At the close of the year, 6 were ready for employment.

The rehabilitation counselor made 128 visits to business and industrial firms, 98 of which were to find jobs for and to place blind persons and 30 to follow up the progress of blind workers placed and the satisfaction of employer and worker.

The rehabilitation staff monitored State Civil Service examinations for upgrading one blind clerk-typist and one telephone operator, both State employees.

In performing the above the counselor had direct contact with forty-five related agencies involving recruitment, public relations and direct service to blind rehabilitants. There were ninety-six consulting interviews with staff members of the Bureau, regarding medical, social, home teaching, educational and other problems relating to vocational rehabilitation. Staff consultation in relation to educational problems of blind children has drawn on the counselor's background in that field.

The counselor has strengthened the Bureau's contact with related groups by serving as President of the Women's Personnel Club of Rhode Island and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Rhode Island Guidance and Personnel Association during the year, and through attendance at conferences pertaining to rehabilitation or services for the blind.

The Vocational Rehabilitation of the blind involved an expenditure of $13,946.49 of Federal funds plus $2,229.53 of State funds to match the Federal case service, a total of $16,176.02.

YEAR'S WORK (continued)

Publicity

The vocational rehabilitation services to the blind have become better known through radio, news releases, exhibits, the preparation and distribution of a flyer and through showing of the sound films: Instructing the Blind Worker on Job and Employing Blind Workers in Industry, before sixteen organizations with a Speaker at fourteen and a total attendance of 610. The groups included PTA's, Granges, Labor Unions, Civic Clubs, Churches and Social Agencies. The agency cooperated in National Employ-the Handicapped Week.

Vending Stand Program

On July 1, 1945 the Bureau for the Blind was operating seven centrally controlled vending stands. During the previous fiscal year these stands had paid the seven operators $23,599.12 net profit, the gross business had mounted to $120,616.28, and the Bureau had deposited in the Blind Worker's News Stand Account in the General Treasury $4,265.83, including 3 per cent of the gross sales of all stands and some donations. The Bureau had established these locations, purchased or provided store fixtures, necessary equipment and initial stock, and trained the operators. The Bureau maintains title to stands and stock. Continuous service is essential for the success of the program. This includes sighted supervision, assistance with inventories and returns, assistance in obtaining stock, accounting and banking of receipts, and the preparation of statements which go to each operator every four weeks along with checks for each stand's net profit. The agency fee of 3 per cent of the gross sales is retained to pay for part of the service rendered to offset some of the risks involved, to pay for the upkeep of stands and equipment, to ensure the replacement of worn out stands, and to build new ones where additional blind men and women may earn a living.

The war was over and it was obvious that business at the three stands at the Newport Naval Training Station would drop rapidly; we anticipated that at least two of the three stands might have to be closed for lack of sufficient volume. We were thankful that our three year campaign to obtain Civil Service approval for the two new classifications of "Senior Vending Stand Supervisor" and "Vending Stand Supervisor" resulted in their approval in July, 1945, so that the

YEAR'S WORK, Vending Stand Program (continued)

five-year-old program would be adequately staffed for reconversion and expansion. Appointments were made to both positions on September 17, 1945. The Federal Government paid 95 per cent of the Senior Vending Stand Supervisor's salary and balance was paid out of State appropriation; his assistant was paid out of the Blind Worker's News Stand account.

On July 1, 1945 we had $3,885.61 in the Blind Worker's News Stand account. Means of financing a rapidly growing program were discussed, in view of the early need for reallocating several of the present operators, our wish to give similar opportunities to additional blind people, and the greatly increased cost of new stands (they now average $1,200 vs. $600 formerly with stock extra). In October, 1945 we took out burglary insurance to cover all possible risks and bonded all operators and members of the staff who handle the receipts.

The campaign for new locations opened after a brief period of orientation of the Senior Vending Stand Supervisor to his new position. He spent two weeks in Montreal and Toronto studying the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's industrial stand program.

Twenty-four locations were studied during the year. Six were dropped as not offering sufficient volume of business to bring the blind operator a decent profit; 6 locations did not desire to afford themselves of our service; 4 locations are pending further action, 3 of the 4 being held up until building construction is completed; 2 locations where we will be considered when the present tenant vacates; one location where a cafeteria may be started on the acquiring of more space; one location where the difficulty was administrative involving as it did two Federal agencies; one location where a Navy ruling that all stands would be run by Supplies and Accounts has kept us out; one location where the building management believed that the building might be sold in the near future making it inadvisable to allocate space and permit erection of a stand at this time.

Two new locations were opened during the year: The Training Stand at Providence County Court House on April 10, 1946, and the Newport Post Office Stand on June 25, 1946. This stand was purchased to preserve the location, but it is ten years old and in need of early replacement.

YEAR'S WORK, Vending Stand Program (continued)

We had long known that we needed a Training Stand if we were to expand the program to the proportions which Federal authorities thought possible as per a survey made in Rhode Island in November, 1944. Our present operators had had only such training as careful induction to present locations plus careful supervision provide, but some had had previous experience. In the summer of 1945 we had paid $90.00 out of Vocational Rehabilitation case service funds to send a young man to Washington for four week's training in stand operation under the auspices of the Washington Society for the Blind. Now at last we had a Training Stand in which two people could move about comfortably, and an experienced business man to give the training. Our first trainee was a World War II blinded veteran, whom we trained in accordance with a formal agreement with the local Veterans Administration. He later secured his own location in Woonsocket with the help of the United States Employment Service, and started off very well.

The young man for whom we had secured training in Washington in the summer of 1945 was placed in the Newport Post Office, where a vacancy occurred at about the time he graduated from Perkins in June, 1946.

By January there was a sharp drop in business at the three Newport Training Station stands. The population in the area of Stand #7 at Coddington Point dropped so low that the stand had to be closed on April 17, 1946. We ended the year with eight stands instead of seven.

While we were hopeful that some of the already explored locations will eventually be opened, we were very sure that by September 1, 1946 the two remaining stands at the Naval Training Station would be closed due to the coming centralization of all Ship Service Stores under new Navy Regulations. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Washington is working with the Navy to establish cooperative agreements whereby such opportunities may again be opene to the blind.

When we compiled our records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946 we were pleased to find that the 27.3 per cent drop of business at the Naval Training Station (Stands #4, #5, and #7) had been largely counterbalanced by an increase of 18.7 per cent at the

YEAR'S WORK, Vending Stand Program (continued)

four Providence and Pawtucket stands (#1, #2, #3, and #6). The Senior Vending Stand Supervisor's all-out campaign for merchandise in a market still tight because of sugar and tobacco scarcities had brought a rich reward in gross sales. Receipts from the Training Stand for three months (receipts from the small Newport Post Office Stand not included) made the gross sales $111,995.76 compared to $120,616.28 last year. The seven operator's profits were $20,596.80, compared to $22,599.12 last year. Revenue derived from the stand program for the year was $3,845.38 compared to $3,603.47 last year, and at the close of the year we had $2,672.39 in the Blind Worker's News Stand account--an amount insufficient for rapid expansion. Expenditures for the Vending Stand Program from three sources are listed below. Federal and State expenditures are already included under "Costs," page 14. Expenditures from the Blind Worker's News Stand Account are now included in that total.

Federal Expenditures		
Automobile travel	$ 89.30	
95 per cent of salary of Senior Vending Stand Supervisor	2,019.21	$2,108.51
State Expenditures		
Travel to stands	178.64	
Salaries of two part-time	1,289.00	1,467.64
Expenditures from Blind Worker's News Stand Account		
New Equipment	1,332.03	
Stock	1,600.00	
Insurance	283.75	
Salary of Vending Stand Supervisor for 9½ months	1,609.34	
Paid substitutes during regular operators' vacations	220.00	
Training, promotion, etc.	152.67	
Repairs to equipment	41.41	
Miscellaneous	84.32	5,323.52
Total Expenditures		$8,899.67

COSTS

The expenditures for operating the Bureau for the year are as follows:

State Appropriation		
Personal Services	$23,203.29	
Operating	4,598.51	$27,801.80
Federal Grant-Vocational Rehabilitation		
Personal Services	9,714.21	
Operating	2,002.84	11,717.05
For Case Service-Vocational Rehabilitation		
50 per cent State Matching	2,229.53	
50 per cent Federal	2,229.44	4,458.97
GRAND TOTAL SPENT		$43,977.82

NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. There is a gap in the education of the blind. The state Department of Education pays tuition and maintenance for blind children chiefly at Perkins Institution for the Blind.

The problems listed below are not now the responsibility of State Department of Education or of any other agency.

1. There are students who receive some sight restoration while in school for the Blind and are transferred to the Public School and also other partially sighted children who are unable to function as sighted persons without extra help. There are no funds provided for elementary and secondary pupils for readers o tutors, to assist in work in narrative subjects or in such subje as mathematics when pupils cannot see blackboard. Beyond the Junior High level, there are no books published in clear type ar only in Providence is sight-saving education provided. It is impractical for all partially sighted pupils to be transported

NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

to Providence Sight Saving Schools. Not all local school departments will pay tuition to Providence Sight Saving Classes. It is impractical for young pupils to board in Providence for this training. No funds are provided for board payments. An excessive amount of staff time of the State Bureau for the Blind is required in the induction of these transferred partially sighted pupils to sighted school because of explanation to teachers of the degree to which pupils can function in a sighted school and, in some instances, instruction of teachers in methods of teaching a partially sighted pupil.

2. Visiting teachers of Public Schools Systems do not include home bound blind children nor those confined to hospitals among their pupils.

Teaching of braille to blind children who are homebound or hospitalized should be provided.

3. There are approximately twenty-two preschool blind children in Rhode Island for whom no educational opportunity is available on a preschool or kindergarten level.

B. The Civil Service Pay Plan is inadequate to recruit qualified personnel in several classifications. This is particularly true of "Guide to Home Teacher of Blind," where at $960 we cannot recruit to fill a coming vacancy. At a Public Hearing on the Pay Plan held by the Civil Service Commission in June, requests for salary adjustments were made for eight classifications out of a total of fourteen classifications in the Bureau for the Blind.

We need three new positions in order to meet the needs of the blind more adequately in both the state and Federal programs. A casework supervisor's services are badly needed to supervise the work of three social workers and two home teachers, to coordinate their work with that of our two "consultants" (Medical Social and Rehabilitation Counselor) and to take charge of the Bureau in the absence of the Administrator. We also need an additional Rehabilitation Counselor and an additional clerk, to speed up the vocational rehabilitation program. Clients now have to wait too long for this important service, and we estimate that we are serving only about one-third of those who are eligible for service. The Federal government will pay the full salaries of the two last mentioned.

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